

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

A) 1. (Once Amended) A molten metal infiltrating method for infiltrating a linear material with a molten metal, wherein the linear material previously is coated with a flux immediately before the material is infiltrated with the molten metal,

wherein the linear material is a carbon fiber and the flux is lithium chloride or sodium chloride.

2. (Once Amended) A molten metal infiltrating method comprising the steps of:  
continuously introducing a linear material, to be a core, into a bath container through an inlet seal portion provided in a bottom part of the bath container, having a molten metal in a pressurized inside;

consecutively drawing the linear material out of an outlet seal portion provided in a top part of the bath container, and

continuously coating the linear material, introduced into the bath container through the inlet seal portion, with a flux by a flux coating reservoir provided immediately prior to the inlet seal portion, such that the linear material is introduced into the bath container immediately after coating with the flux.

A<sub>2</sub> 5. (Once Amended) A molten metal infiltrating apparatus comprising:  
a bath container having an inlet seal portion in a bottom part; and

A2 flux coating means for coating, with a flux, a linear material continuously introduced into the bath container through the inlet seal portion, the flux coating means provided immediately prior to the inlet seal portion.

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**Please add the following new claims:**

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A3 6. (New) The molten metal infiltration apparatus of claim 5, wherein the linear material is a carbon fiber and the flux is lithium chloride or sodium chloride.

7. (New) A molten metal infiltration apparatus comprising:  
a gas-pressurized bath container having an inlet seal portion in a bottom part capable of continuously receiving a linear material; and  
a flux coating reservoir for coating the linear material with a flux,  
wherein a top portion of the flux coating reservoir is connected to the inlet seal portion of the bath container.

8. (New) A molten metal infiltration apparatus comprising:  
a gas-pressurized bath container having an inlet seal portion in a bottom part capable of continuously receiving a linear material; and  
a flux coating reservoir for coating the linear material with a flux,  
wherein a side portion of the flux coating reservoir is connected to the inlet seal portion of the bath container.

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